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LETTER DATED 15 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 8 February 1998 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, calling your attention to the fact that Turkish acts of military aggression against Iraqi territory have been continuing and enclosing a list of the Turkish military violations of Iraqi territory that were committed between 23 October and 25 December 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 8 February 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 29 December 1997 (S/1997/1017, annex), I should like to call your attention to the fact that Turkish encroachments on Iraq's territory and airspace are continuing. (I transmit to you herewith a list showing the violations and encroachments committed by Turkish military forces between 23 October and 25 December 1997.)

The Government of Iraq condemns these ongoing encroachments in the strongest terms and rejects outright the arguments that Turkey has persistently used to justify its aggression. Turkey's actions against Iraq constitute blatant aggression against the country's security, sovereignty and independence, they are in flagrant violation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, and they undermine the principles governing relations of good-neighbourliness and the 1926 Iraq-Turkey boundary agreement.

While Turkey seeks excuses in particular conditions in northern Iraq in order to justify its strikes against Iraqi civilians and its violations of Iraq's territory, it is the Government of Turkey's policy of cooperating with the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom in maintaining the unlawful no-flight zone that is creating an anomalous situation in that area.

As it calls upon the Turkish Government to withdraw its invading forces forthwith from Iraqi territory and to desist from any repetition of these constant belligerent actions, Iraq holds Turkey fully responsible, in accordance with the principle of State responsibility, for the acts of aggression it commits inside Iraqi territory and for all their consequences, regardless of the alleged reasons it gives. The Government of Iraq also reserves its legitimate right under international law to determine an appropriate response to this brutal military aggression and to seek compensation for the damage it causes and the human suffering it inflicts on Iraqi citizens.

At the same time, the Government of the Republic of Iraq renews its call to the Government of Turkey to reconsider its dangerous policy, which clearly contributes to perpetuating the anomalous situation in northern Iraq in cooperation with the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom for the purpose of implementing a dangerous scheme for interference in the internal affairs of Iraq.

As, through you, I reiterate my country's call to Turkey to respect Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, I express the hope that the United Nations will meet its responsibilities as laid down in the Charter and that it will halt the intimidation and aggression to which my country is constantly being subjected.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Enclosure

Turkish attacks on Iraqi territory, 23 October-25 December 1997

1. Between 0644 and 1750 hours on 23 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 15 sorties. The violations were centred on the Aqrah, Rawanduz and Dokan areas.

2. Between 0645 and 1518 hours on 24 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 20 sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Aqrah, Amadiyah and Rawanduz areas.

3. Between 1050 and 1523 hours 26 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 14 sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Aqrah, Rawanduz and Koysanjaq areas.

4. Between 1050 and 1345 hours on 29 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with eight sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Koysanjaq, Dokan, Rawanduz and Irbil areas.

5. Between 1320 and 1500 hours on 30 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with eight sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Aqrah, Amadiyah and Rawanduz areas.

6. Between 1015 and 1240 hours on 31 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with eight sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Aqrah and Rawanduz areas.

7. Between 0645 and 0825 hours on 4 November 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violation was centred on the Tall Kayf and Amadiyah areas.

8. Between 1055 and 1522 hours on 6 November 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with three sorties. The violations were centred on the Zakho, Aqrah and Amadiyah areas.

9. Between 0700 and 1530 hours on 8 November 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 18 sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Koysanjaq, Aqrah and Amadiyah areas.

10. On 8 November 1997 Turkish armed forces supported by tanks and military vehicles carried out a fresh incursion into the territory of the Republic of Iraq. The forces in question penetrated into Iraqi territory in the north. The incursion caused large-scale loss of life and damage to the property of citizens.

11. Between 0627 and 1407 hours on 16 November 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 312 sorties. The violations were centred on the Rawanduz and Aqrah areas.

12. Between 0649 and 1520 hours on 17 November 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 12 sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah, Rawanduz and Shaqlawah areas.

13. Between 1258 and 1346 hours on 19 November 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Dokan, Rawanduz and Baibo areas.

14. Between 0945 and 1027 hours on 20 November 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with four sorties. The violations were centred on the Rawanduz and Baibo areas.

15. Between 1025 and 1118 hours on 3 December 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with three sorties. The violations were centred on the Zakho and Amadiyah areas.

16. Between 0805 and 1055 hours on 4 December 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Rawanduz, Aqrah and Amadiyah areas.

17. Between 1440 and 1450 hours on 7 December 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo area.

18. Between 1600 and 1605 hours on 22 December 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo area.

19. Between 1130 and 1300 hours on 24 December 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with four sorties. The violations were centred on the Dohuk, Baibo and Amadiyah areas.

20. Between 1150 and 1240 hours on 25 December 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Baibo, Aqrah and Rawanduz areas.